

the Nuclear Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

No. 153

May 1, 2009

ONE YEAR FOR U.S. ARMY REFUSER

U.S. Army refuser Cliff Cornell was charged with desertion and brought before a general court martial April 28 at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Cornell had been denied refugee status and voluntarily left Canada ahead of a deportation order last January.

Cornell arrived in Canada in January, 2005, rather than follow orders to fight in Iraq. That war began after he enlisted, and he came to understand it was based on lies.

Attorney James Branum entered a guilty plea on Cornell's behalf. Prosecutors asked for a sentence of 15 months confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

Speaking for himself, Cornell addressed Col. Tara Osborn, the military judge. Trained as a gunner and driver, Cornell explained that he was "very anxious" that he would be ordered to do things that would violate his conscience.

"I felt trapped. I didn't know what to do."

Responding to the prosecution's claim he had put his unit at risk, Cornell admitted, "It was wrong for me to leave my unit and go to Canada."

Attorney Branum explained that as a victim of childhood abuse, Cornell's social communication is challenged and so he could not effectively resolve his reservations with commanders.

Cornell was sentenced to one year in military prison, a reduction in rank to private, and a bad conduct discharge.

A spokesman for Canada's War Resisters Support Campaign said Cornell was punished more harshly than most deserters because he had been outspoken about his opposition to the war in Iraq while seeking refuge in Canada.

Back in Canada, the federal court on March 10 lifted a temporary stay on the deportation of military refuser Kimberly Rivera. The Iraq war veteran, her husband Mario, and their three young children were told to leave by March 26 or face deportation. Late March 25, the court

announced another stay, pending its decision whether or not to review immigration officials' rejection of Rivera's Pre-Removal Risk Assessment. Then on April 21, the court announced it would review the matter on July 8, assuring that the Rivera family will remain in Canada at least until then.

"The majority of Canadians want these war resisters to stay in Canada," said Michelle Robidoux of the War Resisters Support Campaign. "Parliament has voted twice to let them stay and if [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper were committed to fairness and justice like most Canadians, he'd implement the vote of Parliament today."

"I want to stay in Canada, with my family, because the Iraq War is immoral, illegal and I couldn't in good conscience go back," said Rivera. "The amount of support I'm getting from Canadians is amazing. The parents of my kids' friends, MPs and even strangers on the street keep telling me that they can't believe the votes in Parliament aren't being respected."

For more information, contact Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave. #41, Oakland CA 94610, (510)488-3559, www.couragetoresist.org; or the War Resisters Support Campaign, Box 13, 427 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1X7 Canada, (416)598-1222, resisters@sympatico.ca and www.resisters.ca



Letters of support should be sent to Cliff Cornell, c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave. #41, Oakland CA 94610;

Robin Long, Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136; and

Anthony Michael Anderson, P.O. Box 305, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5305.

Holy Week

Faith & Resistance, Washington, D.C.

Fifty people taking part in the Holy Week Faith and Resistance retreat in Washington, D.C., took their nonviolent witness to the Pentagon early Good Friday morning, April 10. Dressed in black robes and white masks to symbolize the war dead, retreatants silently processed to a solemn drumbeat around the south side of the Pentagon. Some signs read: Put Away the Sword, Remember the Victims of War, Abolish All Nuclear Weapons, War Never Again, while others displayed facts about the U.S. nuclear arsenal. As the main procession entered the designated fenced off "protest zone" outside the Pentagon Metro entrance, eight people, one carrying a large cross, knelt and prayed on the sidewalk near the protest zone, where they were arrested by Pentagon police. The eight — Molly Brechtel, Susan Crane, Bill Frankel-Streit, Nancy Gowen, Brian Hynes, Art Laffin, Sr. Margaret McKenna, and David Ryle — were taken to the nearby Navy Annex for processing, charged with disobeying a lawful order and given a June 19 court date.

Another action took place midday at the White House during the "100 Days Campaign to Close Guantanamo" vigil. Paul Magno, dressed in an orange jump suit and black hood, climbed up onto the White House sidewalk ledge in the "picture postcard zone", and with his arms outstretched, was chained by two supporters to the White House fence. For thirty minutes hundreds of tourists witnessed the contemporary crucifixion of a torture victim



photo by Susan Crane

Shortly before his arrest on Good Friday, Paul Magno portrayed a contemporary crucifixion as a torture victim chained to the White House fence.

as supporters sang "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" Magno was arrested by U.S. Park Police, cited and released later that day.

For more information, visit jonahhouse.org.

Ground the Drones

For the 27th consecutive year, the Nevada Desert Experience hosted prayers for peace over Easter weekend at the Nevada Nuclear weapons test site. This year, in addition to the Holy Week Sacred Peace Walk from Las Vegas, there was a ten-day vigil at the gate of Creech Air Force Base, located in Indian Springs, Nevada, directly along the walk's route to the test site's main gate at Mercury. Creech Air Force Base is headquarters for coordinating Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), the latest high tech weapons that use pilotless drones for surveillance and

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Prison No Deterrence

Avrusta! Campaign Targets Another Swedish Arms Exporter

Yet another export arms production plant in Sweden has been entered by direct action campaigners intent on exposing, disrupting and ultimately ending their country's role as a major arms exporter.

On March 22, just days after nonviolent direct action *Avrusta!* (*Disarm!*) campaigners Martin Smedjeback and Anna Andersson were sentenced to four months in prison, and while they were free on appeal, Smedjeback was joined by two other *Avrusta!* activists at the Saab Aerospace Systems facility in Linköping. Police responded and arrested Smedjeback, Annika Spalde and Pelle Strindlund early that morning, soon after they had cut through the fence surrounding the area and entered a production hangar. They were equipped with hand tools to disarm Jas 39 Gripen fighter jets stored there and intended for export to South Africa, India, and Thailand.

In 1999, Saab sold 28 Jas-39 Gripen jets to South Africa. South African social movements condemned bribery and corruption involved in the \$206 million deal. Furthermore, critics claim that this weapon affair is taking resources from fighting poverty and HIV in South Africa.

In the fall of 2007, the Thai government ordered six Jas fighters and Erieye, a Saab radar surveillance system. The chief of the Thai air defense publically declared that the planes will be used against armed rebels in southern Thailand.

In 2010 the Indian air force will order 126 fighter jets. Saab is vying for the contract, with full support from the Swedish government. If Saab gets the contract, Swedish jets could be loaded with India's nuclear weapons.

The disarmers hung pictures of prominent nonviolent activists from across the globe on the Saab fence before going inside. One depicted Indian activist Elsey Jacob, and another the former South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who seeks cancellation of the Jas-39 Gripen contract.

On March 16, Smedjeback and Andersson were convicted of gross malicious damage and acting against a national security installation during the first round of *Avrusta!* actions last fall. The two broke into a Saab/Bofors Dynamics factory in Eskilstuna where they scratched and dented more than a dozen Carl-Gustaf anti-tank rocket launchers.

During their trial one week earlier, the judge allowed all of their testimony as they presented the case that their action was a way to safeguard the official Swedish policy barring arms sales to warring states. "It is my duty to intervene due to the gross criminal damage and death that Saab causes around the world. Others who get in the way of Swedish weaponry, for example in Iraq and Afghanistan, pay a substantially higher price," said Andersson.

While sentencing the pair to four months in prison, the judge also rejected Saab's claim for over \$125,000 damages.

Following the March 20 action, the three activists were jailed pending trial, which came quickly on April 14 in Linköping. Facing one count each of attempted sabotage, the three accused peace workers defended themselves, demanding to be acquitted because they acted to prevent the suffering and death caused by the fighter jets around the globe. Smedjeback and Spalde faced an added charge from last summer for violating "the law protecting areas essential for society" at Karlskoga, while carrying out a preliminary weapons inspection for *Avrusta!*. Spalde also faced a charge for unlawful entry during a solo disarmament attempt in October.

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100 DAYS TO CLOSE GUANTANAMO

Witness Against Torture's 100 Days to Close Guantanamo campaign concluded its daily presence in Washington, D.C. with a solemn procession from the Capitol to the White House on April 30. More than two hundred people walked the route, most dressed in the iconic clothing of a Guantanamo prisoner: orange jumpsuits and black hoods. They rallied with hundreds who joined them at Peace Park, opposite the White House.

Since the new President's inauguration, campaign volunteers in the Guantanamo garb have been a daily, visible presence at the White House and elsewhere in the city, reminding Obama of his promise to close the illegal prison camp.

Now, 100 days into his Presidency, at least 241 prisoners remain locked up at the U.S. navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Continuing their demonstration, dozens of the mock captives stood vigil in front of the White House fence behind a large banner reading, "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied." Their orange overalls were stenciled with the names of 55 of the detainees who were cleared for release by the Bush administration but not released, plus an additional five who died at the prison.

After refusing an order to keep moving through the popular tourist photo zone, police arrested 63 people, as supporters in Peace Park read out loud what is known of the story of each detainee represented.

Participants expressed frustration and determination as the day began.

"We listened to President Obama's speech last night hoping to hear decisiveness and resolve," said Tanya Theriault, an organizer with Witness Against Torture. "Instead we heard that 'torture is a mistake.' It is not a mistake, it is a crime."

New Strategy For Peltier's Freedom

Thirty-two years ago, on April 18, 1977, Leonard Peltier was wrongly convicted on coerced testimony and fabricated evidence, and then sentenced to two life terms. He'll be 65 in September, so has now spent one half of his life in prison for a crime he did not commit. The day the crime occurred for which Peltier was convicted — the shooting of two FBI agents on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation — the corrupt tribal chief, Dickie Wilson, was secretly signing away tribal mineral rights, including for uranium, while traditionalists opposed to such development were under siege by the FBI and Wilson's Guardians Of the Oglala Nation, or "G.O.O.N. Squad."



Letters of support should be sent to Leonard Peltier 89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Peltier's attorneys and reconstituted Defense Offense Committee are pursuing new strategies with the new administration. The first stage involves securing a meeting with President Obama to personally 1) present the case for clemency, 2) request release of withheld files pertaining to Peltier's case, and 3) appeal for his transfer to a lower security prison in consideration of his health and excellent

ZERO RECRUITMENT DAY

On April 23, anti-war groups engaged in several coordinated protests at military recruiting centers across Minnesota, under the banner Zero Recruitment Day.

Participating groups were united in an effort to visibly oppose the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, expose recruiter lies and prevent military recruiting that day.

"President Obama has failed to keep his promise of ending the U.S. war on Iraq," said Anti-War Committee member Katrina Plotz. "His plan to keep 50,000 troops in Iraq through 2011 will continue an unjustified military occupation for almost three more years. An escalation is planned for Afghanistan, where Obama just deployed 17,000 additional troops. Maintaining these wars and occupations requires military recruiters to entice young people with false promises. Recruiters, who already disproportionately target low-income people, will use the economic crisis to intensify pressure on vulnerable youth. We have to shatter the illusion that the war is ending and that new soldiers won't have to fight."

In Brooklyn Center, activists locked themselves to the recruiter's door and four were arrested a few hours later. They were charged with trespass and 4th degree criminal damage, the latter charge because police had to cut through the door.

"Our message today is that the work continues," said Frida Berrigan, another organizer. "We need to push Congress and push the consciousness of the American people."

For more information, visit www.100dayscampaign.org.

Quietly Disorderly

Four people standing in silent opposition to the Vermont Yankee (VY) nuclear power reactor were removed from a public forum on the state's economic recovery plan in Brattleboro on March 31.

While Gov. James Douglass spoke at the Latchis Theater, Jonathan Crowell, Amy Frost, Eesha Williams and Elizabeth Wood, who all live near the reactor, stood up to display a sign reading "Veto Nuclear Jim in Nov. 2010." The message referred to the governor's intent to veto a bill passed by the Vermont House days before that would require Entergy Corporation, Vermont Yankee's owner, to fully fund decommissioning if the reactor stops operating after 2012.

In a statement, the activists wrote that, "If New Englanders took the money they now pay Entergy Corp. of Louisiana for electricity from VY and instead spent it on energy efficiency programs, VY could be closed, consumers' electricity bills would go down, and there would be a net increase in jobs."

Police moved quickly to quell the quiet quartet, escorting them in handcuffs to jail where they were charged with disorderly conduct and released.

disciplinary record.

This stage of the new campaign can be supported every Friday by joining other supporters who call the White House at (202)456-1111 with these three requests.

Talking points: 1. Peltier's served over 33 years in prison. 2. The government has conceded that it does not know who shot the two agents. 3. The government is still fighting vigorously to prevent the release of thousands and thousands of pages of documents under the Freedom of Information Act — documents that should have been turned over to defense attorneys years ago. 4. Peltier will turn 65 on September 12 and he is not in the best of health. 5. Peltier was brutally attacked on January 13, 2009 by two other inmates and prison officials did nothing to prevent the attack from happening.

Respectful letters to Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States, requesting Peltier's transfer should be faxed to U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, (202)307-6777. Sample letters to the President and Attorney General can be found at the official website, www.whoisleonardpeltier.info.

For more information and details on the campaign to bring Peltier home by his birthday, contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee, POB 7488, Fargo, ND 58106, (701)235-2206, Fax (701)235-5045, or email contact@whoisleonardpeltier.info.

Sarah Martin explained the action at the Knollwood Plaza. "When we went into the recruiting office, the Grandmas Peace Brigade wore t-shirts which said, 'What would grandma do? Pack for Iraq and send the children back.' We were there to protect our grandchildren from the deadly demands of U.S. imperialism." Martin and two other women tried to enlist but were instead arrested. Afterwards, supporters continued to disrupt business until mall security simply shut the recruiters down for the day.

One woman was arrested one block away from the Lyndale/Lake Street recruiting station when she was placing a "Don't enlist!" sticker on a police car as a second cruiser pulled up behind. Demonstrators were present all day and plastered the front of the office with counter-recruiting literature, and police later cleared the area and taped it off as a crime scene, but no arrests were made.

In West St. Paul, activists occupied another recruiting office as soon as it opened, but found recruiters unwilling to talk about the job.

Macalester University Students for a Democratic Society locked down at nearby army and navy recruiting stations all day, but the stations were closed, anticipating the event. No arrests were made.

For more information, visit www.antiwarcommittee.org.

FREE SPEECH TO CONGRESS?

"Why are we being prosecuted for exercising our rights of assembly and free speech demonstrating against crimes committed by government officials who still continue to remain free from investigation and prosecution?"

That's the question asked by four people facing prosecution this summer for disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly. They were charged on the day the new Congress returned to Washington, after entering the Hart Senate office building and reading aloud the names of the dead from the illegal wars and occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

Seventeen were arrested, and thirteen have paid a fine. Laurie Arbeiter, Robbie Diesu, Michelle Grise, and Pete Perry have asked supporters of the right to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances to contact the Office of the Attorney General, District of Columbia to demand that their charges be dropped. Call Attorney General Peter Nickles at 202-724-1301 and Assistant Attorney General Elizabeth A. Meyers at 202-727-4783, or email oag@dc.gov.

The defendants are part of a growing number of activists also calling on U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder at (202)514-2001 to demand the appointment of an Independent Special Prosecutor to investigate the crimes of the Bush Administration.

Correction

A correction: the date printed on the masthead of the last issue is in error, reading 2008 instead of 2009. The date printed on the mailing front and bottom of each page is correct.

Thanks

Thanks to Racheli, Steve, Paige, Sarah, Jim, Gretchen, Catherine, David, Jerry, John, Cindy, Danilo, Gerri, Lil and Rosemary for helping to mail the last issue!

Our gratitude goes to Jerry, John, and David for their assistance with archive work.

Thanks also to Bix, Laura and Tom, and the Tacoma Catholic Worker community and the Ground Zero Community for Nonviolent Action for their hospitality when we attended the Pacific Life Community retreat and March 1 demonstration at Bangor.

the Nuclear Resister

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YOU CAN HELP!

Please send news, updates and donations! Mail us (or e-mail or phone) new action reports, updates, jail information, statements, graphics, photos & clippings about local actions. Thanks!

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Please inquire about multiple copies of the current issue for free distribution at conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

THE NUCLEAR RESISTER ON MICROFILM

The Nuclear Resister is available on microfilm as part of the Alternative Press Research Collection (1986 - present) and the Alternative Press Center Supplement of the Underground Press Collection (1980 - 1985) offered by the UMI Division of ProQuest Company, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

ABOUT THE NUCLEAR RESISTER

Since 1980, the Nuclear Resister has provided comprehensive reporting on arrests for anti-nuclear civil resistance in the United States, with an emphasis on providing support for the women and men jailed for these actions. In 1990, the Nuclear Resister also began reporting on anti-war arrests in North America, plus overseas anti-nuclear and anti-war resistance with the same emphasis on prisoner support.

The Nuclear Resister is published about every two months and serves to network this nonviolent resistance movement while acting as a clearinghouse for information about contemporary nonviolent resistance to war and the nuclear threat. We believe that in any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are imprisoned. Behind bars, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Broader awareness of their actions and support for the imprisoned activist are essential to the movement for a peaceful, nuclear-free future.

Each issue provides the names and jail addresses of currently imprisoned anti-nuclear and anti-war activists. Readers are encouraged to provide active support by writing letters to those behind bars and in other ways requested by the prisoners.

Jack and Felice Cohen-Joppa, Editors

PRISON MOVE FOR BRITISH BOMB PLANT BASHER

Elijah Smith was moved from Lewes Prison and the company of his co-defendant Robert Alford, and now remains Her Majesty's guest at Bristol Prison. Alford applied for bail but was refused; Smith refused to apply for bail until Alford was released. The two men and seven others are charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage at the ITT/EDO-MGM arms factory in Bristol in January. Israel's attack on Gaza moved six of them to enter the plant with intent to disrupt the supply of bomb and missile parts made there. Police also arrested three ITT/EDO-MGM opponents who showed up outside, where they were summoned to document the decommissioning.

Estimated damages have been increased to £300,000. A pretrial hearing for the nine is scheduled for May 8.



Letters of support should be sent to Elijah Smith VP7551, HMP Bristol, 19 Cambridge Rd., Horfield, BS7 8PS, England; and Robert Alford VP7552, HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Road, East Sussex BN7 1EA, England.

Washington Activist Jailed for 60 Days

A community organizer was sent to jail for 60 days after entering an Alford plea on charges over his actions in a 2008 May Day march that resulted in six arrests. The march through Olympia called on the city to become a sanctuary for both undocumented workers and military refusers, and was organized by local branches of the Industrial Workers of the World union, Students for a Democratic Society, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan).

FIVE MORE SOA PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Five of the six human rights defenders who crossed the line at Fort Benning, Georgia, last November surrendered at federal prisons on March 9 and 11 to serve their two-month prison sentences. Rev. Luis Barrios, Theresa Cusimano, Kristin Holm, Diane Pinchot, and Albert Simmons will all complete their sentences and be released by May 6 or 8.

The sixth defendant, Louis Wolf, was sentenced to six months of house arrest, which will conclude in July.

The six are the latest of over 250 people sent to prison in the last fifteen years following arrest at the annual nonviolent vigil and civil disobedience at the U.S. Army's Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, better known by its former name, the School of the Americas.

The School still trains soldiers and other security forces from Central and South America, scores of whom have been implicated and some convicted of murder and other human rights abuses back home. Lobbying lawmakers to close the School has yet to be successful, but continues with renewed hope for the new Congress.

Contact SOA Watch to help with educational outreach, its ongoing legislative campaign, and organizing for the November, 2009 vigil and nonviolent action at Fort Benning. School of the Americas Watch, POB 4566, Washington, DC 20017, (202)234-3440 or visit soaw.org

JAIL WARRANT SURPRISES ENGLISH PEACE CAMPAIGNER

Just a day after arriving home in Yorkshire, England from Seoul, South Korea, and the 17th annual organizing conference of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Lindis Percy was summoned to Harrogate Magistrates Court on April 21 and summarily jailed for 45 days for failure to pay a fine.

As co-coordinator of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases, Percy has been a persistent thorn pressing through the boot heel of U.S. military domination of the British countryside. She has steadfastly refused to pay fines imposed following repeated arrests at Menwith Hill, Fylingdales, and other Royal Air Force bases given over to U.S. nuclear and space warfare missions.

Harrogate magistrates handle arrests made at Menwith Hill, often during weekly Tuesday evening demonstrations at the gate. Percy has for years gone to great lengths to attend all court dates resulting from her protests, yet was surprised by the warrant for arrest that awaited her return from South Korea. In January, Percy's legal team had successfully appealed a conviction and sentence imposed last summer by Harrogate magistrates for a March, 2008 arrest, but the present sentence followed on other lingering legal mirens.

For more information, visit caab.org.uk



Letters of support should be sent to Lindis Percy KP5753, Low Newton Women's Prison, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YA, England. With credit for good behavior, she could be released by May 29.

Inside & Out

Name ID# (if needed) (sentence - in/out date if known)
prison or support address
(action & date)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS

Helen Woodson 03231-045 (106 months - out 9/9/11)
FMC Carswell, Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127.
(Parole violation with anti-war protest at the federal courthouse, Kansas City, Missouri, 3/11/04)

Leonard Peltier 89637-132 (life)
USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.
(Native American political prisoner)

NUCLEAR RESISTERS OVERSEAS

Lindis Percy KP5753 (45 days, in 4/21/09)
Low Newton Women's Prison, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YA, England.
(Failure to pay fines for trespass at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales space warfare bases, 2008)

Igor V. Sutyagin (15 years)
163050, Arkhangelsk; Ul. Pirsovaya, d. 27; FGU IK-1, 5 otryad; Russia. (letters only, no parcels)
(Imprisoned since 10/27/1999, now convicted of espionage for researching public nuclear weapons information - sentenced 4/07/04)

Daniele Casalini
Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100 Parma, Italy.
(Eco-anarchist on remand for another alleged crime, and awaiting trial for 9/05 sabotage of nuclear electricity pylons)



ANTI-WAR RELATED ACTIONS

Elijah Smith VP7551
HMP Bristol, 19 Cambridge Rd., Horfield, BS7 8PS England.
Robert Alford VP7552
HMP Lewes, 1 Brighton Road, East Sussex BN7 1EA, England.
(Jailed pending trial for decommissioning of EDO/ITT arms factory in Brighton, England, 1/17/09)

Rafil Dhafir 11921-052 (22 years - out 4/26/22)
FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
(Convictions resulting from providing humanitarian and financial aid to Iraqis in violation of U.S. sanctions, 2/05)

AVRUSTA!

Martin Smedjeback (5 months - in 3/22)
Annika Spalde (6 months - in 3/22)
Pelle Strindlund (4 months - in 3/22)
c/o Ofog, Svenska Fredskommitten, Linnegatan 21, 41304 Göteborg, Sweden.
(Attempted sabotage at Saab factory plus unlawful entry [Spalde] and civil security violation [Smedjeback and Spalde], as part of nonviolent campaign to directly disarm Swedish weapons for export, 3/22/09)

PUBLIC MILITARY REFUSERS

Cliff Cornell (1 year - out 4/10)
c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave. #41, Oakland CA 94610.
(Pled guilty to desertion, 4/09)

Robin Long (15 months - out 6/09)
Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, P.O. Box 452136, San Diego, CA 92145-2136.
(Pled guilty to desertion, 8/08)

Anthony Michael Anderson (14 months - out 11/09)
P.O. Box 305, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5305.
(Pled guilty to desertion and disobeying an order, 11/08)

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Luis Barrios 93613-020 (two months - out 5/6/2009)
MCC New York, Metropolitan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row, New York, NY 10007.
Theresa M. Cusimano 93611-020 (two months - out 5/8/2009)
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, 2 South, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127.
Kristin Holm 93610-020 (two months - out 5/6/2009)
FCI Pekin, Satellite Camp, POB 5000, Pekin, IL 61555.
Diane T. Pinchot 93612-020 (two months - out 5/8/2009)
FPC Alderson, Federal Prison Camp, Glen Ray Road, Box A, Alderson, WV 24910.
Albert L. Simmons 93614-020 (two months - out 5/6/2009)
FCI Butner Low, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 999, Butner, NC 27509.
(Trespass at the School of the Americas/WHINSEC, Fort Benning, Georgia, 11/08)

Holy Week, Continued

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increasingly lethal attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. The drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), take off from runways in the country of origin, controlled by a nearby pilot "on the ground." But once many of the drones are airborne, teams inside trailers at Creech Air Force Base and other U. S. sites begin to control them and direct their lethal force.

Despite the week-long presence of activists at the vigil, base security seemed unprepared on Thursday afternoon, April 9, when fourteen of them walked through the gate. They carried a white rose, pizza to share, and a message for the airmen controlling the Predator and Reaper drones. Air Force security stopped the procession and rejected the dinner offer during a three-hour standoff before the Las Vegas Metro Police Department arrived to arrest the fourteen activists for transport to the Clark County Detention Facility. All but one were released early the next morning with a state trespass citation. Fr. Steve Kelly SJ refused to sign his citation, and was not released until shortly after midnight on Easter Sunday. Kelly and the others are due in court June 9.

In a statement prepared for the action, the vigilers wrote that:

Proponents of the use of UASs insist that there is a great advantage to fighting wars in "real-time" by "pilots" sitting at consoles in offices on air bases far from the dangerous front line of military activity. With less risk to the lives of U.S. soldiers and hence to the popularity and careers of politicians, the deaths of "enemy" noncombatants by the thousands are counted acceptable. The illusion that war can be waged with no domestic cost dehumanizes both us and our enemies. It fosters a callous disregard for human life that can lead to even more recklessness on the part of politicians.

NEVADA TEST SITE

A Western Shoshone prayer-circle greeted the interfaith peace walkers when they arrived at the Mercury

gate on Saturday. Shoshone tribal lands were expropriated for nuclear testing in violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, and disarmament advocates have long been welcomed by the tribe's traditional leaders to engage in nonviolent direct action.

The next morning, Easter Mass was celebrated before nine men and twelve women were arrested for crossing the white line marking the Test Site boundary. Some of those cited had also been arrested three days earlier at Creech Air Force Base. On Monday, two more arrests were made when a man and woman crossed the line in another ritual prayer-action of civil resistance against militarism and nuclearism.

For more information, contact the Nevada Desert Experience, 1420 West Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106-2226, (702)646-4814, info@nevadadesertexperience.org.

Livermore

About three hundred people gathered early Good Friday outside the Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory for the annual worship and witness for peace. The Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka, seven months old when the atomic fireball blasted his hometown of Nagasaki, concluded his sermon with these words: "There is no pride in military supremacy, but in moral leadership. Let us leave to our posterity a nuclear-free, safe and peaceful world. Let us rise with Christ come Easter and begin to live a new life as responsible stewards of God's beautiful creation."

Included in the service was a water-offering ceremony, widely practiced in Japan to remember the people severely burned by the atomic blasts and their search for water to slake their tremendous thirst.

Along the route of the procession to the main gate of the lab were four stations where people could stop and make their own water offerings. About fifty people were arrested at the main entrance of the lab.

For more information, visit epicalc.org

Lockheed Martin

More than 50 people gathered at the corner of Mall and Goddard Boulevards in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where the entrance to Lockheed Martin's sprawling complex is located directly behind the King of Prussia Mall. The Brandywine Peace Community's annual observance of Good Friday is modeled on the traditional Stations of the Cross and recognition that war, and the works of Lockheed Martin, represent a continuing crucifixion.

After the opening Station (Pilate Condemns Jesus to Death) and accompanying reading, people processed to the main driveway entrance of Lockheed Martin behind a large wooden cross with the Lockheed Martin logo at the crucifixion nail points. Each successive Station and reading was followed by a different person carrying a smaller cross into the drive and standing there, cross in hand.

After the 12th Station (Jesus Dies On The Cross), a line was completed — people and crosses spanning the entire width of the driveway.

As the amplified sound of Adagio for Strings surrounded police and demonstrators, the crosses were laid down in the drive alongside a banner reading "Beyond War: A New Economy is Possible!"

Those who had held the crosses and others began walking down the drive toward the Lockheed Martin weapons. Each was stopped by Lockheed Martin security, and arrested by police when they refused to leave. Sixteen people were arrested and taken to the Upper Merion police station. Jackie Bauman, Theresa Camerota, Tim Chadwick, Amber Christis, Shane Claiborne, Carroll Clay, Joe Clay, Rich Conti, Beth Friedlan, Annie Geers, M.J. Gentile, Art Landis, Mary Jo McArthur, Tom Mullian, Fr. Patrick Sieber OFM, and Bob Smith were all released with citations for disorderly conduct.

For more information, visit brandywinepeace.com

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from Pekin

by Kristin Holm - from lettersfromprison.com

March 22, 2009 (in the afternoon)

I got my first visit yesterday - mom and dad. When I found out they were coming I was pleased, but markedly unemotional. It would be good to see them - I like my parents. But it was to be no different than stopping by for an afternoon visit passing through town, or even an extended phone call. Though I had been here for almost 2 weeks already, I hadn't developed any sort of desperate need for visits - time here seemed to be passing alright, and while I was anxious to get back to my life "outside" I honestly didn't think about it that much.

The girls in my alley balked when they realized I was getting a visit after just a few weeks. "I haven't gotten a visit in the whole 6 months I've been here," said A-.

"That sucks," was all I could think to say.

"It's because I told them not to come," she explained with a half smile. "I don't wanna see nobody while I'm here - why do I need to see my babies cry when mommy can't come home with them? Nope, it's better this way."

I thought she must be an anomaly - surely most women wanted their loved ones to visit them. But the camp seemed to be split about fifty-fifty, some desperately craving visits and others refusing them altogether.

"If my family comes to visit, I told them I wouldn't even come out of my room to see them," said S-. She's an older woman in my room whom everyone adores and thinks of as their own grandma. It's hard to imagine that she doesn't have plenty of people trying to visit her, but she's emphatic. She won't even take phone calls.

Another roommate, K-, didn't even tell anyone other than her immediate family that she was going to prison. "I just told everyone 'I've gotta get away for awhile.' I don't know what I'll tell them when I get out."

So when my parents arrived and the visiting room (not large to begin with) was only half full, it came as much more a shock to my mom than to me. "These are all the visitors that came? And there are 300 women here?" she asked incredulously. "That's sad..." she sighed.

The few hours I had with my parents were really good. They caught me up on events on the outside, everything from friends' weddings and funerals to the election in El Salvador. I rambled on about a book I'd

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been reading and told them about how bad the food is and how generous the inmates are. My dad kept looking at the clock and lamenting how little time we had left. The urgency was lost on me - we had several hours together, and they would be back to visit soon - what was the big deal?

When the time came for them to leave, we prayed together. My mom cried and I smiled and we all exchanged hugs. They walked out one door, and I walked to another. Mine was locked.

"We have to wait for the guard," muttered a nearby woman wearing the same green uniform and steel toed boots I had on. That's when it hit me like a steam truck - my parents were walking freely out the doors toward their jobs, family, friends, errands, pets, decisions, Chinese takeout, Saturday matinees, laundry, grocery shopping - their lives. I, on the other hand, was returning to my bunk, the track, stand-up count and the occasional 15 minute phone call home. I understood instantly why the women around me refused visits - visits are painful.

Time passes as faithfully here as anywhere else, and the smart inmates learn to busy themselves with classes and work and projects and exercise. But a visit allows you to step out for a moment, to see the flesh and blood evidence that you were somebody, ARE somebody, HAVE somebody outside the compound. That is, until that flesh and blood turns to leave and you find yourself being patted down by an armed guard. Then all you can think about is the time you have left in prison, and how it seems it will never pass.

"Did your mom cry?" I was asked the minute I walked into my bus stop after my visit.

"Yeah," I smiled.

"Did you cry?"

"No," I said, staring at my shoes.

"Yeah," said S-, "you don't seem like a crier. You're strong."

I smiled weakly. I'm not a crier. It seemed like now I should cry. But I couldn't and I felt almost as though I didn't have the right. I'm here for a few months. What of the women who are here for 14, 24, even 30 years?

"Prison is stupid," I said, before slinking off to my bunk.

As hard as visits are, I still want them. And short as they may be, I will use all the phone minutes I am granted. And as for mail, I absolutely CRAVE it. Because though the next few months would be less painful without all that, it would lose its meaning. I WILL NOT succumb to the dimness, the less-ness, just because living fully, abundantly, is costly. I am here because of the enormity of passion I have been granted for God's creation - I'm not about to stifle that passion just because it hurts to be separated from that for which I've sacrificed so much.

What this pain causes me to do, instead, is curse the lunacy of retributive "justice", and the prison system in general. How does it benefit anyone to exile women and men, to sever their supports, to cage them, to rob them of the ability to renew or transform themselves using the tools God gave them - loving community, dignity, and self worth. You can't treat people like animals and expect them to come out acting human.

And most of these women have a long road ahead of them as they struggle to honor each other's humanity and their own in the face of daily degradation.

"I don't need five years to figure out that I f**ked up," said D- the other day, frustrated just a week into her sentence. She has already voiced what all the women here know - the biggest punishment here is the loss of relationships. And as I see picture after picture of young children pouring in through the mail, I wonder how our society can possibly benefit from tearing mothers and children apart for decades at a time.

All this and not a single woman is here for a violent crime.

[Kristin Holm is a 21-year-old Lutheran seminary student who was one of six activists arrested in November at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas) at Ft. Benning, Georgia. She is nearing the completion of a two month prison sentence, and is due to be released on May 6.]

Catholic Workers Visit Corporate Mercenaries

The notorious mercenary contractor Blackwater, now rebranded as "Xe", was the focus of the annual midwest Catholic Worker's resistance retreat at the end of April. About 150 people attended a Saturday conference about private military and security companies, co-sponsored by Clearwater Citizen's Group to Stop Blackwater in Stockton, Illinois. Diane Wilson, co-founder of CodePink, told the gathering that Eric Prince, owner of Blackwater, was the 2009 "Black Planet award winner," given by the German Foundation on Ethics and Economics (www.ethecon.org). Wilson promised to personally track down Eric Prince and deliver his well earned award.

Sunday was devoted to community building among conferees, many from 15 different Catholic Worker communities, plus training and planning for nonviolent action on Monday.

Monday morning, April 27, they regrouped in nearby Mount Carroll, where Blackwater is developing the "U.S. Training Center." A car caravan brought more than 100 people to the remote site off Skunk Hollow Road, and they walked the last half mile to the gate behind a large banner reading:

Blackwater FORECLOSED: Moral Bankruptcy

Investigations & Lawsuits: + Killing Iraqi Civilians + Illegal Arms Smuggling + Tax Evasion + Illegal Possession of Fire Arms + Human Rights Abuses

A delegation approached the line of Illinois state police standing at the gate, and delivered a brief "Statement of Foreclosure." One at a time, 22 people crossed over or under the barrier at the line and were arrested for trespass, transported away from the site and released with a citation. They have a court date on June 4.

For more information, contact the Des Moines Catholic Worker, at (515)282-4781 or visit www.DesMoines-CatholicWorker.org.

CodePink Busted Again

At a hearing before a House Appropriations subcommittee on April 24, General Petraeus was testifying on behalf of the \$83 billion supplemental war funding bill, and noted a need to better prepare National Guard and reserve troops to "do their jobs" in Afghanistan. Liz Hourican, attending the hearing with other CodePink women, spoke out.

"Our National Guard should be at home in their home states, not in combat."

Capitol police quickly arrested Hourican, who is widely recognized on the Hill, where she often attends congressional hearings and buttons lawmakers in the halls of power to challenge their support for illegal war.

After the hearing, Code Pink women visited the office of subcommittee chairman Rep. Chet Edwards, who apologized for the arrest and had his staff work to expedite Hourican's release.

For more information, visit the CodePink blog at www.codepinkdc.blogspot.com/

New Charges for Anarchist Fight Pro

Jeff Monson, a professional extreme fighter already facing felony charges for anarchist anti-war graffiti after an in-the-act photo appeared in ESPN magazine, faces new charges for vandalizing the Lacey, Washington armed forces recruiting center. A broken window and anti-war graffiti left at the center last October were an unsolved crime until Monson's cell phone ended up in the custody of Thurston County, South Carolina police. Photos on his phone showed the damage.

A trial date has not been set for either anti-war prosecution.

Wall Street Action

Ending the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq was just one among many economic justice demands made by demonstrators who converged on Wall Street in New York City on April 3. The Bail Out the People Movement brought out hundreds of people, including four who were arrested when they tried to march down the center of Broadway.

Trident Resisters Remember Bikini Bomb Test Victims

In commemoration of the 55th anniversary of the U.S. "Bravo" nuclear bomb detonation at Bikini Atoll, members of the Pacific Life Community, hosted by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, held a vigil and non-violent resistance action at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, in Kitsap County, Washington.

Participants gathered at the Trigger Avenue entrance to the Trident nuclear submarine base around noon on March 1, holding signs and banners with various messages, including a large banner that read, "Nuclear Free Pacific Now". Another sign commented on the dubious Navy milestone noted with pride in the press that week: "1000 Trident patrols are nothing to celebrate."

Six of the anti-nuclear activists, all residing outside of Washington State, crossed the blue line onto the base and knelt, blocking the roadway. Ed Ehmke, John Heid, Mark Kelso, Mary Jane Parrine, Megan Rice, and Jerry Zawada were arrested by base security personnel, processed and released. No citations were issued at that time.

"This March 1, 2009 citizen's intervention of Trident Bangor Sub Base remembers all the victims of nuclear weapons testing: their uprooting, sufferings, and deaths. Our action also stands on the side of International Law and human morality that all nuclear weapons must be abolished," declared the Citizen Action Statement read aloud by Denny Moore, Jessica Arteaga, Larry Kerschmer, Bernie Meyer, and Jackie Hudson, all local members of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. The five then carried banners into the crosswalk, blocking traffic from entering the base. All were arrested by Kitsap County sheriff's deputies, and transported to a county facility where they were processed and released with no citations.

On March 1, 1954, the United States tested the first deliverable hydrogen bomb, code named "Bravo", at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Bravo was the largest U.S. nuclear test ever exploded, with a yield of



photo by Leonard Eiger

Members of the Ground Zero Community for Nonviolent Action get in the way of business as usual at the Trident nuclear sub base at Bangor, Washington, March 1, the 55th anniversary of the Bikini nuclear test.

15 megatons, 1000 times larger than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima (and well beyond the predicted yield of 6 megatons). Marshallese Islanders and American military personnel in the area at that time received radiation doses substantially in excess of those considered safe, and Marshallese Islanders continue to receive radiation exposures due to radioisotopes from fallout in water and soil contaminating their food and drinking water.

For more information about the Pacific Life Community and Ground Zero, visit PacificLifeCommunity.wordpress.com and GZCenter.org.

IRAQ INVASION ANNIVERSARY ACTIONS

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, President George W. Bush ventured out of Texas to another cowboy and oil center: Calgary, Canada. Hundreds turned out to protest the visiting war criminal, who had been invited to address the local chamber of commerce. During a brief scuffle at the height of the March 17 demonstration near the convention center, four people were arrested.

That same day, a delegation from the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance was arrested at the Pentagon, where they sought a meeting with war secretary Robert Gates. Gates had not responded to a letter sent ten days earlier, requesting a meeting to discuss "the illegal war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, and the illegal bombing, since July of 2008, of Pakistan."

The letter continued, "These actions are causing incredible human suffering, growing distrust of the United States around the world, and are diverting our resources which could be better used to ease human suffering. We follow the principles of Gandhi, King, Day and others, working nonviolently for a peaceful world... As members of the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance, we adhere to the Nuremberg protocols. These principles, established during the trials of Nazi war criminals, call on people of conscience to challenge their government when it is engaged in criminal activity. Not only do we have the responsibility to meet with you, but you have a responsibility and duty to follow the laws and uphold the constitution as you swore when you took your oath of office..."

Ellen Barfield, Michelle Grise, Steve Mihalys, Max Obuszewski, Pete Perry, Manijeh Saba, and Eve Tetaz were cited and released.

The following day in New York City, the Grannie Peace Brigade and their supporters returned to the recruiting station on Military Island in Times Square for a press conference. (Eighteen of the elder activists were arrested there in October, 2005, and later acquitted following a six day trial.) Mostly Obama supporters, they said they took the President seriously when he had asked his base to pressure him back in line if they thought he was veering from the right path. Today, they were urging the President to reconsider his plan to leave 50,000 troops in Iraq after the official withdrawal, and protesting his decision to escalate the war in Afghanistan.

The grandmothers wrapped yellow crime scene tape around the ramp leading to the recruiting station entrance,

and seven, some in wheelchairs or hanging on to walkers, assembled on the ramp. An hour passed before police arrested Jenny Heinz, 65; Carol Husten, 77; Nydia Leaf, 76; Lillian Lifflander, 89; Joan Pleune, 70; Beverly Rice, 70; and Barbara Walker, 75. The women were held for up to 12 hours before being released on charges of disorderly conduct, trespassing, and disobeying a lawful order. When the women returned to court on April 14, prosecutors dropped all charges.

Back in Washington on the anniversary itself, March 19, several protests took place across the Capitol city. Police arrested U.S. Army veteran Forrest Schmidt after he scaled the awning in front of the Veterans Administration building and raised a large banner reading "Veterans Say 'NO' to War and Occupation." Schmidt was later released without charges.

The raucous "Funk the War" musical peace procession danced down K Street, past the corporate lobbying offices of many war economy notables such as Blackwater/Xe, Lockheed-Martin, and the American Petroleum Institute. Police made two arrests, including one for spraying graffiti.

During Chicago's March 19 rally and march, witnesses reported seeing police monitoring an anarchist contingent target one young man. While a banner drop from a nearby building had the attention of most of the marchers, police were observed pointing at the youth, then tackling him, striking him with batons and pepper-spraying him before taking him into their custody.

In San Francisco, protests took place at several locations and different times on March 19. A midday die-in in the financial district blocked trolley lines at Montgomery and Market Streets, resulting in 22 arrests by one report. Most were issued civil citations, and four charged with resisting arrest. Later that afternoon, demonstrators blocked Market Street at the Civic Center Plaza, intending to remain for one second for each U.S. combat fatality in Iraq since 2003. With the current body count at 4,259, that would have been about 71 minutes. Police moved in after 45 minutes, arresting eleven, including five Iraq war veterans.

San Francisco's big march took place on Saturday, March 21. When pro-Israel counter-demonstrators faced off with a Palestinian contingent, chants and taunts led to riot police escalating the scene with tear gas and batons, and arresting ten people.



Kazakh Police Quash Nuclear Protest

In the wake of Chernobyl, the rise of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement in Kazakhstan was a notable eastern wedge among the independent people's movements in many republics that eventually fractured the Soviet Union. The popular and successful movement against Soviet nuclear testing at Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, was spawned in the atmosphere of "glasnost" and inspired by the nonviolent direct action movement against nuclear testing on native lands in Nevada. It went on to play a key role in the new republic's renunciation of nuclear weapons shortly after it inherited an arsenal of them, along with independence from the former Soviet Union.

Today, with an estimated 20% of global uranium reserves and a strategic location in central Asia, the government in Almaty has proposed hosting an international nuclear fuel bank that some see as the solution to proliferation problems associated with nuclear power expansion.

So when a few human rights activists and opposition party members set out for the capital city's main square on April 14 to protest the plan, they were barely out the door of their offices before police detained ten, plus two journalists along for the story. They were taken to the police station and released after making statements.

Bahytjan Toregojina, one of the activists arrested, told the Institute for War and Peace Reporting that in Kazakhstan, "everything can be stolen. There is no guarantee for this bank, and no guarantee that double accounting won't

be practiced. We will be selling fuel for nuclear energy production, but outside the gates [it could go] to terrorists," she said.

Vanunu Withdraws Nobel Nomination

Five years after completing his full 18-year prison sentence, the Israeli nuclear whistleblower remains under virtual house arrest in East Jerusalem, forbidden to leave Israel or even travel elsewhere in the country without police permission. The post-prison restrictions on his movement and contact with foreign media have been renewed for another year, while Vanunu awaits a high court review of his conviction for violating the prohibition on meeting with foreign media.

On March 1, Vanunu wrote to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Oslo:

I am Vanunu Mordechai, who has been nominated several times to Nobel Peace Prize, also this year's 2009 award.

I am asking the committee to remove my name from the list for this year's list of nominations.

My main reason for this is that I cannot be part of a list of laureates that includes Simon Peres. He is the man who was behind all the Israeli atomic policy.

Peres established and developed the atomic weapon program in Dimona in Israel. Exactly like Dr. Khan did in Pakistan, Peres was the man behind the atomic

weapon proliferation to South Africa and other states. He was also, for instance, behind the nuclear weapon test in South Africa in 1978.

Peres was the man who ordered the kidnapping of me in Italy, Rome, Sept. 30, 1986, and for the secret trial and sentencing of me as a spy and traitor for 18 years in isolation in prison in Israel.

Until now he continues to oppose my freedom and release, in spite of my serving full sentence 18 years.

From all these reasons I don't want be nominated and will not accept this nomination.

I say No to any nomination as long as I am not free, that is, as long as I am still forced to be in Israel.

WHAT I WANT IS FREEDOM AND ONLY FREEDOM.
Thank you.

For more information, visit vanunu.com.

NATO Game Over

On March 22, ten days before NATO's 60th anniversary summit in Strasbourg, France, the military alliance's headquarters in Evere, Belgium came under nonviolent siege. Hundreds of people from 17 European countries came by public and private bus, train, bike, taxi, even walking, to say NATO GAME OVER. They demanded U.S. nuclear weapons out of Europe, and NATO out of Afghanistan. Activists from Germany, Italy and Spain made clear they do not want new military bases or infrastructure. Czech and Polish peace activists objected that missile defense installations with a NATO flag are as unacceptable as with a U.S. flag. Croatian, Macedonian, Finnish and Swedish activists opposed their countries joining NATO.

Despite the massive presence of police forces equipped with water canons, helicopters, dogs, horses, and kilometers of barbed wire, activists spread out, crossing fields and scaling fences to get inside the complex. Over 450 arrests were made, including about 50 people who got inside the military base and began to close it down by sealing up gates, doors and windows.

Companion actions took place the same day in Germany, at the Büchel nuclear weapons base and NATO command in Heidelberg, and at the Nieuw Milligen military reserve in the Netherlands, where 35 people were arrested. The actions were sponsored by the international Bombspotting campaign and Belgium's Vredesactie (Peace Action) organization.

Ten days later, the violence of police and a minority of demonstrators dominated the news of protest at the NATO Summit, April 1-5. A small hotel and customs office were burned to the ground as police clashed with hundreds of Black Bloc demonstrators. Lost in the smoke was the story of over two hundred protesters committed to non-violence from a dozen countries who took part in the five-hour NATO-ZU/Shut Down NATO nonviolent blockade on April 4. The activists blocked a main road into the red security zone around the conference center where NATO was meeting, but no one was arrested.

For more information, visit www.natozu.de or bombspotting.org

Avrusta!, cont.

continued from page 1

"When the government and companies cooperate to export weapons to poor countries and conflicts it is up to us regular citizens to act. The civil obedience is a far worse problem than the civil disobedience," said Strindlund.

Nine days later, the verdicts were guilty on all counts, and sentences were announced. Pelle Strindlund was sentenced to four months in prison, Martin Smedjeback got a five month sentence on his two counts, and Annika Spalde must serve a six month term for her three convictions. The disarmers were also ordered to pay damages of about \$17,000 to Saab.

If they choose to appeal to the higher court they will be kept in the remand prison until the next trial, but if they choose not to appeal they will be moved to another prison within a few weeks.

BECOMING² PLOWSHARES TRIAL

While the three *Avrusta!* activists were waiting for their trial, two other Swedish disarmament workers were in court April 1 in Gothenburg for their Becoming² Plowshares action at the Saab military microwave radar facility last June. Per Hergren and Ulla Røder also planted fig trees at the military factory, and declare that their action was not a protest.

"We beat swords into ploughshares", says Ulla Røder. "We build. We do not protest against the fire system of Microwaves, even being told this is the fifth largest company producing war radars. We chose no protest because protest becomes reactive and negative. It is about time to interfere and be creating, and live the society we want."

"We call it postprotest", Per Hergren explains. "We do not use protest! No 'No', No 'Stop!' Instead, we try to live and create the community we want to live in. To beat swords into ploughshares with hammers is creating, not an attempt to say 'no', to halt. The inspiration are taken from the philosophers Nietzsche and Deleuze's argument: To be against drains force and energy from our creativity. Moreover, the protest points to leaders and wants them to solve the problems, making them the subject. We wish to inspire, to spread like an 'infection' from person to person. Deleuze would have called it 'starting a chain of innovations and repetitions.'"

"At the court we propose to conspire, multiply, and organize together as resistance communities. Here there are to be no spectators in the 'Becoming² Plowshares' trial, becoming resistance and justice, becoming justice and becoming resistance. According to Nietzsche we are all law makers – not only the government."

During the trial, English, Danish and Swedish plowshares held a two day Hope and Resistance festival, affirming that "trials are for conspiring and partying."

For their creative act of resistance, Hergren and Røder were convicted and fined about \$250.



Letters of support should be individually addressed and sent to Martin Smedjeback, Annika Spalde and Pelle Strindlund, c/o Ofog c/o Svenska Fredskommitten, Linnegatan 21, 41304 Göteborg, Sweden.

WRITINGS FROM JAIL

~ from *Norrköping*

by Annike Spalde

April 4, 2009

Ten years ago I was in jail in England, awaiting trial for an action within the Trident Plowshares campaign. Now I'm on remand in Sweden, for a disarmament action against the fighter jet Gripen. It's my first time locked up in Sweden. Compared with in England, one spends more time in the cell here. Normally 23 hours per day (and one hour outside for "exercise"). But sometimes you have the possibility of "samsittning", which means sitting together, and luckily Pelle, Martin and I are allowed that. So in the afternoons we all sit in Martin's cell – where the ventilation system isn't quite so loud – for a couple of hours. That's great.

Since September last year I've been working practically full time with our campaign against the Swedish weapons export. I'm proud of all that we have done in this time, and I feel it's very meaningful work, but there are moments when I feel low and think "Will we be able to change anything?" It's an issue that most people in Sweden know very little, or nothing, about – and sometimes you get the impression that they don't want to know. It's a trade we as a country profit from, and we don't get to see any negative consequence. But other people suffer from them. Poor countries are tempted, by our companies and our government, to spend their precious resources on advanced military equipment. "We" contribute to the arms race between India and Pakistan. Grenade launchers, red dot sights and other weapons

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delivered from Swedish factories to the U.S. army, to be used in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Gripen fighter will be sold to Thailand, in spite of the Swedish guidelines saying weapons shouldn't be sold to countries with internal armed conflict. It might be sold to India, even though the planes – according to peace researchers – most likely would become a part of India's nuclear weapons program. And our government just says "Great! We are so proud of our Swedish technology!"

April 6

Today Pelle and Martin were moved to another remand center, so I feel quite lonely right now. But our trial is in just eight days and we might be released then. Greetings to everyone out there working for a world without war or weapons! It's so good to know that we are many, a diverse global community.

[Anniko Spalde, along with Martin Smedjeback and Pelle Strindlund, were convicted and sentenced to jail, where they remain. See story, page 1.]

CMU Prisoner Seeks Support

Dr. Rafil Dhafir's email and telephone privileges were restored March 12 and then revoked again for another month on March 16, for reasons unknown. Authorities also then notified his wife that they had canceled her scheduled visit.

The special Communication Management Units (CMUs) established by the Bureau of Prisons for predominantly Muslim prisoners at the U.S. Penitentiaries in Terre Haute, Indiana, where Dr. Dhafir is jailed, and in Marion, Illinois, are now the subject of several critical investigations and civil suits filed on behalf of prisoners held there. The Center for Constitutional Rights, the ACLU, and the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation are all involved, charging a violation of administrative procedures to create the special units, and abusive, biased treatment of Muslim prisoners held there. The special units are increasingly known as "America's Guantanamo Bays," in part because prisoners are sent to the CMUs for no specific reason and have no administrative path towards release from the CMUs.

Dhafir wrote to *the Nuclear Resister* in late February that the men in Terre Haute CMU, "were served [such] rotten, spoiled, foul smelling food that even the officers here were appalled and couldn't stand the smell. They did it twice..." Writing to a supporter in early April, Dhafir

noted "the warden, who is about to move to another place, no longer has interest in our daily issues. Rules are broken and laws violated blatantly. Nowhere to turn for help because we are completely isolated. Any mail they don't like will be blocked. You will be lucky to get this one..."



The Dr. Dhafir Support Committee asks that respectful letters be sent to Warden Helen Marberry, USP Terre Haute, 4700 Bureau Road South, Terre Haute, IN 47802. She has recently replaced the previous Warden, B.R. Jett. Let her know that you are aware of the disproportionate number of Muslims held in the CMUs and the prisoners' concerns about poor medical attention and food. Ask that she look into the management of the CMU and address these concerns. You may receive a perfunctory, dismissive reply, but your letter will alert the bureaucracy to increasing public awareness about the CMUs, if nothing else.

Letters of support should also be sent to Rafil Dhafir, 11921-052, FCI Terre Haute, POB 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808.

Update Files

ALDERMASTON: Five women were convicted in Reading, England, on March 11 of obstructing the highway at the British nuclear weapons factory last October. The women, all experienced resisters representing themselves, gave lengthy and impassioned evidence regarding their motivations and justifications in international and domestic law. They collectively relied on a defense of lawful authority or reasonable excuse under Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act of 1967, which permits the use of reasonable force in the prevention of crime; in this case war crimes. The defendants explained how they believed that the ongoing activities at and expansion of Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston and nearby AWE Burghfield, together with the ongoing deployment and planned renewal of Britain's submarine-launched Trident nuclear missile system, contravened Britain's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the 1996 landmark ruling of the International Court of Justice regarding the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. They also argued against the massive cost of replacing and maintaining Trident, particularly in the current economic climate. "With some regret," the district judge found all five guilty, and four were assessed £215 each in fines and fees. Emma Bateman, pleading mitigating circumstances, was assessed only £40. Commenting after the trial, Bateman said, "I hope one day we'll find a judge with the courage to uphold the law, but I understand why they find us guilty: it is difficult to stand up to government when it is acting illegally."...

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE: A federal magistrate decided that conviction on trespassing charges dating back to May, 2007, did not warrant jail time for defendants Dennis Apel, Jeff Dietrich, Steve Kelly, SJ, and Louie Vitale, OFM. At their March 13 sentencing in Santa Barbara, California, Magistrate Rita Coyne-Federman fined Apel \$2,500. Dietrich and Kelly were fined \$1000 each, and Vitale was fined \$500. The men were also ordered to pay \$35 each in court costs. All defendants stated their refusal to pay the fines and court costs. The court did not respond. They have a May 12 court deadline to submit payment...

ANZAC PLOUGHSHARES: Attorneys for three men charged in New Zealand one year ago with burglary and criminal damage are seeking to have their trial moved to Wellington. The activists had deflated the protective dome covering a military satellite dish critical to U.S. war planning. The attorneys argue that Sam Land, Adrian Leason and Fr. Peter Murnane cannot receive a fair trial in Blenheim, near the Waihopai spy base. No date for trial has been set. In the meantime, the men plan to tender an offer for a recently posted government contract for some demolition and renovation work at Waihopai. According to a notice at ploughshares.org.nz, "The Ploughshares are confident their tender will be successful as it is likely to be the lowest tender price (free) and because it focuses on the demolition aspects of the work required - for which members of Ploughshares have a proven track record at the Waihopai spy station. 'While we would never claim to be experts, we do believe Ploughshares groups throughout the world are industry leaders in the renovation and conversion of these types of facilities to more useful purposes,' said a spokesperson. 'While the time frames provided in the tender documents seem quite tight, we actually think we can have it done by lunchtime.'..."

NORTHWOOD MILITARY HEADQUARTERS: British Catholic Workers Susan Clarkson and Rev. Martin Newell were convicted of criminal damage in Watford Magistrates Court on March 19. Defending themselves, they admitted to what no witness observed last December 1, 2009

ber 29: cutting a hole in the fence in order to "create a new citizen's gateway through which we enter to pray and through which we invite our fellow citizens to enter and see what is done in our name. We make our own the words of the Bible 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'." Clarkson and Newell were ordered to pay fines and costs of £920 each, but they refuse to pay...

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION: Widespread public outrage and organized community support have led the Ramsey County Attorney to back down from sensationalistic terrorism charges brought against the RNC 8. The eight were associated through the anarchist RNC Welcoming Committee, a hub for counter-convention activity. They were arrested during a pre-convention house raid and jailed for the duration of the event. County Attorney Susan Gaertner, campaigning to be Minnesota governor, is continuing with felony charges of conspiracy to riot and conspiracy to commit criminal damage against the eight, but on April 9 her office dropped two related charges of conspiring as terrorists under Minnesota's version of the PATRIOT Act. In an unrelated felony case of protesters in possession of molotov cocktails at the Convention, David McKay of Austin changed his plea to guilty when he faced retrial in March following a hung jury. The case involved accusations of entrapment by a questionable FBI informant who assisted McKay and his codefendant Bradley Crowder, but McKay now told the court, "I think we would've done it anyways." McKay was taken into custody and awaits sentencing...

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION: All but a few of the 63 prosecutions resulting from arrests in Denver last August have been resolved. Attorneys with the People's Law Project won 41 cases and the city prevailed in 22, including eight deferred judgments. Among the last charges to be dismissed were those against Alicia Forrest, accused of interfering with a riot cop who was widely seen on video cursing the Code Pink activist before throwing her to the ground and whisking her away from fellow demonstrators...

LOS ALAMOS: Marcus Page was convicted by a Los Alamos jury on March 31 of trespassing at the nuclear weapons lab complex. He was sentenced to "364 days in jail, minus 362 days, with credit for two days time served," plus 180 days probation and 30 hours of community service at any bona fide agency not already on his circuit of volunteerism as a member of Albuquerque's Trinity House Catholic Worker. The case was a retrial on the charge after an earlier hung jury. Page was arrested on seemingly public land in the quasi-closed city on April 14-15, 2008, while keeping a 48-hour vigil in opposition to war taxes...

PENTAGON: Eight people who blocked the entrances last December 29 appeared in Federal District Court in Alexandria, Virginia on March 6, 2009. The U.S. Attorney spoke informally with them about their late beloved codefendant, Peter DeMott. The attorney had been a Marine, like DeMott, and both served their country then. DeMott, and the defendants, he believed, continued to serve their country with their peacemaking witness and persistent presence at the Pentagon. The charges against DeMott were posthumously dismissed, as were charges against those who had no prior record of Pentagon arrests. The others were convicted and fined, despite their declared intention not to pay...

ISRAELI EMBASSY: Ellen Grady, Clare Grady and Heidi Schloegel accepted an agreement for their December 29 charges to be dismissed in one year if they are not arrested in Washington during that time...

FUTURE ACTIONS

bangor

The annual Mother's Day traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at the gates of the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington will take place on Saturday, May 9. "Mom Says: Use Words, Not Weapons! Abolish Trident!" Gather at 8:30 a.m. at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA, for nonviolence training and action planning, then afternoon vigil and action at the gate. Bring a peaceful, nonviolent spirit, sack lunch, snacks, drinking water, umbrella, warm, waterproof clothes, money for donations, t-shirts etc. More info and maps at gzcenter.org. For more information and possible ride sharing, contact Rosy at (206)782-9305, rbetzall@gmail.com; or Anne at (206)545-3562, annehall@familyhealing.com.

northwood

On the 2nd anniversary of the attack on the wedding party at Haji Nabu, in which 47 civilians were killed by U.S. bombing, Voices in the Wilderness/UK, JNV, and the Oxford and London Catholic Workers invite people to a die-in for NATO's victims in Afghanistan. Meet Wednesday, May 27, at 11 a.m. at Northwood tube station (Metropolitan line), London, for a procession to the gates of Britain's military nerve centre (and NATO Regional Command) at Northwood. Wear wedding clothes. For more information, visit www.voicesuk.org

fort mccoey

The anniversary of the atomic bombings will be observed with a 22-mile walk for peace beginning August 6 at Camp Williams, Wisconsin, and concluding with civil disobedience at Ft. McCoy on August 9. Camp Williams is the headquarters of a Wisconsin National Guard combat team which deployed to Iraq in February, while Ft. McCoy plays a central role in the training and mobilization of Army National Guard and Reserve units from across the country to deploy to the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Sponsors include Nukewatch, Winona Catholic Worker, Pledge of Resistance-Madison, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Mary House Catholic Worker (Oxford, WI) and Iraq Veterans Against the War-Madison.

To get involved for all or part of the walk, contact Voices for Creative Nonviolence, (773)878-3815 or info@vcnv.org

coulport

The Trident Ploughshares campaign will return for a week-long action camp to Coulport, Scotland, where nuclear weapons are stored and loaded onto Britain's Trident nuclear submarine fleet. Provisional dates are August 8-16. Coulport and the nearby Faslane submarine base have not been subjected to substantial protests for some time so organizers believe it may be useful to return in force, in order to keep up the pressure on the Scottish parliament. If you want to help organise it or come along contact Jane at tp2000@gn.apc.org

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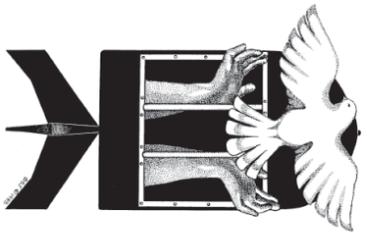
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RESISTANCE for a NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE

CELEBRATING 3 DECADES
OF
THE NUCLEAR RESISTER AND NUKEWATCH



July 4th weekend, 2010

At the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Join us for a national gathering, culminating with nonviolent anti-nuclear direct action, July 3-5, 2010, to declare our independence from nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and radioactive waste!

*Mark your calendars -
we hope to see you there!*

At a critical time in the movement for a nuclear-free future, and to mark the 30th anniversaries of Nukewatch and *the Nuclear Resister*, the two groups have begun planning a national gathering to increase awareness and action around nuclear issues, and advance the role of nonviolent direct action and civil resistance in this movement. We will also be marking the 30th anniversary of the Plowshares movement and the inaugural Plowshares Eight direct disarmament action of September 9, 1980.

We envision a gathering for new and seasoned activists that will take place on July 4th weekend, 2010, and will include a celebration, discussion, nonviolence training and nonviolent anti-nuclear direct action. In partnership with the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), the gathering will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, with nonviolent action at the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex in nearby Oak Ridge, where OREPA has sustained a nonviolent campaign for over 20 years.

We will gather two months after the 2010 Nonproliferation Treaty review conference and before the mid-term elections - a time when public attention needs to be focused on nuclear disarmament and a nuclear- and carbon-free energy future. This will be an opportunity to meet with like-minded activists, to learn from and build upon the lessons of past anti-nuclear direct action campaigns as we highlight the need for increasing resistance to nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and the entire radioactive cycle.

It will also take place on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the July 8, 1996 World Court advisory opinion on nuclear weapons.

the Nuclear

Resister

"A Chronicle of Hope"

Prison for Disarming
Swedish Arms Exports

One Year for
U.S. Army Refuser

New Strategy for
Peltier's Freedom

Trident Resisters
Remember Bikini

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the Nuclear Resister

Bonnie Urter and John LaForge
Nukewatch
(715)472-4185
Email: nukewatch1@lakeland.ws
Website: nukewatch.com

The Nuclear Resister began in 1980 to chronicle anti-nuclear and anti-war civil resistance, with a focus on supporting the men and women imprisoned for these actions. The newsletter publishes writings from prisoners, reports on actions, trials and sentences, provides addresses of imprisoned activists and publicizes future actions.

Nukewatch has a foundation of investigating and divulging the truth about nuclear weapons and power since 1979. The organization has a strong history of drawing people together - from the missile silo fields, to H-bomb trucks on the highways, to a decade-long campaign shutting down the Navy's Project ELF.

Contact:
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